AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmission of digital information in a digital broadcast system comprising a central transmission station and at least one decoder, the central station transmitting at least one transport stream comprising a stream of packets encapsulating data sections within their payloads, wherein at least one encapsulated section includes at least one medium access control (MAC) address used to control the reception thereof by the at least one decoder, wherein the at least one MAC address is dynamically assigned by the central transmission station and communicated to said at least one decoder using a fixed internet protocol (IP) address in an address assignment message, wherein the at least one MAC address is based on a type of service requested by the decoder, wherein the type of service requested is one selected from the group consisting of a multicast service, a connected unicast service and a non-connected unicast service.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one encapsulated section corresponds to at least one datagram section used to contain internet protocol data, the data contained within a datagram section also including the fixed IP address.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one encapsulated section transmitted to said at least one decoder and identified by an access control address is communicated from the central transmission station to said at least one decoder via a telecommunications network.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the address assignment message is sent in response to a medium access control (MAC) address request sent to the central station by the at least one decoder.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the address assignment message is communicated back to the at least one decoder from the central transmission station via a telecommunications network.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the MAC address request sent by the at least one decoder includes an internet protocol number identifying that decoder to the central transmission station.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the MAC address request includes an operator identity value associated with the subscription of the owner of the decoder to the services proposed by an operator broadcasting information via the central transmitting means.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the MAC address request includes an indication of whether the decoder wishes to receive messages in one of a unicast and a multicast mode.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the address assignment message sent by central transmitting station contains a unique access control address in response to a unicast address request and a shared control address in response to a multicast address request.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the unicast address is a dynamic address assigned at the beginning of a session, in response to the address request received from the decoder.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the MAC address request includes an indication of whether the decoder will remain connected to receive data via a telecommunications network after the communication of the MAC address request.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the address assignment message further includes information to enable said at least one decoder to select a packet transport stream containing the data associated with the at least one MAC address amongst a plurality of transport packet streams.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the address assignment message further includes information to enable said at least one decoder to select the service containing the data associated with the at least one MAC address from a plurality of services within a transport packet stream.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the address assignment message further includes information regarding the data streams carried by that service and identifying the data stream containing the packetized data associated with the at least one assigned MAC address.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the central transmission station dynamically controls which transport packet stream amongst a plurality of transport packet streams is used to carry encapsulated packet data addressed for said at least one decoder.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the central transmission station dynamically controls which service amongst a plurality of services on which encapsulated packet data addressed to said at least one decoder is broadcast.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least some of the data encapsulated within a packet payload is encrypted.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of communication of datagram packets in a digital communication network comprising at least one central control station and a plurality of remote terminals, in which the datagram packets include at least one medium access control (MAC) address associated with one communication layer of the network and an internet protocol (IP) address associated with a second communication layer of the network, and in which the at least one MAC address is dynamically assigned by the central control station in response to a request from a remote terminal, wherein the at least one MAC address is assigned based on a type of service requested by a remote terminal, and wherein the type of service is one selected from the group consisting of a multicast service, a connected unicast service and a non-connected unicast service.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for transmitting a transport stream comprising a stream of packets encapsulating data sections within their payloads to a decoder, at least one encapsulated section including at least one medium access control (MAC) address used to

control reception thereof by a decoder, said apparatus comprising means for dynamically assigning the at least one MAC address, and means for communicating to said decoder the at least one MAC address using a fixed IP address in an address assignment message, wherein the at least one MAC address is assigned based on a type of service requested by a remote terminal, and wherein the type of service is one selected from the group consisting of a multicast service, a connected unicast service and a non-connected unicast service.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said at least one encapsulated section corresponds to at least one datagram section used to contain internet protocol data, the data contained within a datagram section also including the fixed internet protocol address.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, comprising means for communicating to said decoder via a telecommunications network at least one encapsulated section identified by the at least one MAC address.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, comprising means for receiving from a decoder a medium access control (MAC) address request, said apparatus being adapted to communicate the address assignment message to the decoder in response to said MAC address request.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, adapted to communicate said address assignment message to said decoder via a telecommunications network.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the address assignment message contains a unique MAC address in response to a unicast address request and a shared MAC address in response to a multicast address request.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the unicast address is a dynamic address assigned at the beginning of a session, in response to the MAC address request received from a decoder.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the address assignment message further includes information to enable said decoder to select a packet

transport stream containing the data associated with the MAC address amongst a plurality of transport packet streams.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the address assignment message further includes information to enable said decoder to select the service containing the data associated with the at least one MAC address from a plurality of services within a transport packet stream.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the address assignment message further includes information regarding the data streams carried by that service and identifying the data stream containing the packetised data associated with the at least one assigned MAC address.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, comprising means for dynamically controlling which transport packet stream amongst a plurality of transport packet streams is used to carry encapsulated packet data addressed for said decoder.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, comprising means for dynamically controlling which service amongst a plurality of services on which encapsulated packet data addressed to said decoder is broadcast.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, comprising means for encrypting data encapsulated within a packet payload.

34. (Canceled)